

152

Subject: Stip comment
From: Jeff Brown <jeff_brown@dot.state.ak.us>
Date: Thu, 29 Dec 2005 13:46:39 -0900
To: planning_comments@dot.state.ak.us

To Whom It may Concern,

As a commuter that drives the Seward Highway, I would like to formally request that a four lane design be considered for this portion of roadway between Anchorage and Girdwood. Increased traffic volumes and the potential for devastating head on collisions predicate the need for divided four lane highway. This winter has resulted in numerous accidents and at least one death. Every year one, two or three deaths occur on this stretch of highway. If you live on Turnagain Arm you know somebody that has died or somebody that has been touched by the death of a loved one. After 20 years with 2-3 deaths a year its a lot of people that parish.

I worked on the rebuilding of the Seward Highway in the early 80s... I could not believe that the Department would put half the people of the state of Alaska through many years of construction for only 2-lanes of traffic.... excavation should have occurred at that time for a future 4-lane.

Now the Department wants to again put half the people of the state through many more years of construction to provide them with a 3-lane highway as shown in the current stip. A three lane highway that has proved itself as a killer of the people that travel it on a continual basis.

The construction of 4-lane divided highway could be done with less impacts to the traveling public than the current 3-lane design shown in the current stip. It would also be the final construction phase for this tight stretch of roadway.

Money has always been used as an obstacle to the divided four lane concept. I suggest some of our ear marked windfall be used to upgrade the Seward highway between Anchorage and Girdwood. Why not spend the money where the people drive.

Thank-you
Jeff Brown